

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

New claim 25 has been added dependent on claim 13 to embrace the elected species. This claim finds support, *inter alia*, in the original claims. Entry of this new claim is requested. Claim 5 of Group I has been canceled.

The Office Action requires restriction between what are asserted to be two (2) separate and distinct inventions:

Group I – Claims 1-12 to a composition; and

Group II – Claims 13-24 to a process of use (and the resulting product – claim 24).

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants elect, without traverse, the invention of Group II, claims 13-24.

The Office Action also presents a requirement for an election of species. It is not clear from the Office Action, if this election is required in the event the process, and not the composition, claims were initially elected. Thus, out of an abundance of caution, applicants also make an election. In response to this election requirement, applicants select a) Embodiment A – a composition of a film-forming binder, an anionic polymer and a cationic polymer; b) as an anionic polymer a styrene-maleic anhydride (SMA) copolymer; c) as a cationic polymer a polyamidoamine-epichlorohydrin and d) as the film-forming binder starch. Of the claims in Groups II, claims 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, 23, and 24 are believed to embrace the relevant method(s) applied to these species.

Applicants request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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